

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for handling an incoming call to or an outgoing call from a subscriber terminal of a subscriber Centrex group within a digital telecommunications switching center of a public telecommunications network, at least one further subscriber terminal being assigned to the subscriber Centrex group, comprising:

switching a connection for the transmission of signaling information and useful information between a calling subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group and an accepting subscriber terminal when there is an incoming call in the digital telecommunications switching center, and

switching a connection for the transmission of signaling information and useful information between the calling subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group and the an accepting subscriber terminal when there is an outgoing call in the digital telecommunications switching center; and

setting up only a connection for the transmission of pure signaling information but not for transmitting useful information between the calling subscriber terminal and the accepting at least one further subscriber terminal of subscriber the Centrex group in the digital telecommunications switching center.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group is assigned a primary call number and at least one associated call number, each corresponding to the primary call number of another subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when an incoming call directed to a first subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group is transferred by a second subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group in the digital telecommunications switching center, switching a connection for the transmission of signaling information and useful information to the second subscriber terminal, and maintaining a connection for the transmission of pure signaling

information to the first subscriber terminal.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein before an incoming call which is directed to a first subscriber terminal and which is associated with the subscriber Centrex group is accepted or transferred by a second subscriber terminal which is associated with the subscriber Centrex group, assigning the subscriber information which is associated with the first subscriber terminal and which is obtained from a central database of the digital telecommunications switching center, for the duration of the connection, to a subscriber Centrex line group which is located in the digital telecommunications switching center and connects the second subscriber terminal.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein before an outgoing call which originates from a subscriber terminal under the associated number is initiated, assigning the subscriber information which is associated with the primary call number and is obtained from a central database of the digital telecommunications switching center, for the duration of the connection, to a subscriber Centrex line group which is located in the digital telecommunications switching center and connects the subscriber terminal.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein when an incoming call directed to a first subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group is transferred by a second subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group in the digital telecommunications switching center, switching a connection for the transmission of signaling information and useful information to the second subscriber terminal, and maintaining a connection for the transmission of pure signaling information to the first subscriber terminal.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein before an outgoing call which originates from a subscriber terminal under the associated number is initiated, assigning the subscriber information which is associated with the primary call number and is obtained from a central database of the digital telecommunications switching center, for

the duration of the connection, to a subscriber Centrex line group which is located in the digital telecommunications switching center and connects the subscriber terminal.

8. (currently amended) A system for handling an incoming call to or an outgoing call from subscriber terminals of a subscriber Centrex group within a digital telecommunications switching center of a telecommunications network, at least one further subscriber terminal being assigned to the subscriber Centrex group, comprising:

a first connection, for the transmission of signaling information and useful information between a calling subscriber terminal and an accepting subscriber terminal, being switched when there is an incoming call in the digital telecommunications switching center,

or the first connection, for the transmission of signaling information and useful information between the calling subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group and the accepting subscriber terminal, being switched when there is an outgoing call in the digital telecommunications switching center; and

only a second connection for the transmission of signaling information but not for transmission of useful information between the calling subscriber terminal and the accepting at least one further subscriber terminal of the subscriber Centrex group in the digital telecommunications switching center.